

Dear Parents & Students:

Welcome to third grade...this is a BIG and exciting year! It is an honor for me to be your child's homeroom teacher this year, and my goal is to help your child be happy, safe, and successful in school. One major change you can expect this year is that your 3rd grade student will receive math and science from Ms. Flett in the afternoon. I will be teaching language arts and social studies to your child in the morning, and then to the fourth graders in the afternoon. Ms. Flett will be teaching math and science to 4th grade in the morning, and then to the 3rd grade in the afternoon. This should help ease the students into their transition to the middle school structure in 5th-8th grade in the coming years! The following important information about our routines and policies will be consistent across third and fourth grade. With your partnership and cooperation, I am confident that your child will have a positive educational experience!

I encourage the children to make good choices for themselves and develop positive behavior in and out of the classroom. During the first week, the students will learn our four classroom rules: **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Positive, and Be Safe**. For behavior management and parent communication, Chase students in grades 3-6 will be using the ClassDojo app online. You be receiving a sign-up code. With this app, you can view posts and pictures from on our classroom and see your child's behavior points! You can also communicate directly with me through the app.

Classroom Management System

Incentives:

- ClassDojo Points: All Chase students grades 3-6 use the ClassDojo app. Each student receives positive or negative Dojo points for their behavior.
- You will receive a separate sheet with a sign-up code and instructions to view your child's points. Positive Dojo points earn Fun Friday, rewards and other classroom privileges.

Consequences:

- When a student violates a rule, the teacher will issue a consequence in the order listed below:
 1. Verbal Warning
 2. Negative Dojo Points
 3. Teacher's Choice (loss of privileges, parent contact with a "Think Sheet" to be signed, or office referral).

In addition, we are continuing with our school wide **CHAMPS** program. This involves setting clear expectations for learning in any environment. Please ask your child how it is used in our classroom and in other areas of the school. This will be monitored and practiced school wide throughout the year.

C – Conversation **H** – Help **A** – Activity **M** – Movement **P** – Participation **S** – Success

Uniforms

Students K-5 can only wear white and navy blue colors. **Logos, glitter, cartoon characters or any kinds of designs are not allowed on the shirts or pants.** If the student is wearing a sweatshirt during inclement weather or to stay warm inside the classroom, it must also be navy blue or white. Chase spirit wear is on sale in the office. During PE the uniform must be regulation (blue shorts or jogging pants, white shirt, and gym shoes). You will find our daily schedule below, so you know what days we have PE.

Homework

Homework is extremely important to your child's education. Your child will have homework every night. Completing homework accurately and on time will help develop a sense of responsibility and improve your child's academic performance. I encourage parents to be involved with their child's homework. Help your child complete written homework, or

simply check his/her homework every night for understanding, completion, and quality work. With your cooperation, we can help your child have a successful year.

1. Usually assigned Monday and due Friday, unless indicated.
2. The student should complete all of the work and come prepared to ask questions when confused.
3. Parents will be contacted if your son/daughter is not turning in homework.
4. Homework affects your child's grades as well as participation in classroom rewards.
5. **Children must read 30 minutes every night outside of school to develop as fluent readers.** Please listen to your child read out loud often and read to them as well (they are not too old to be read to).
6. Your child should be practicing their math facts regularly (Reflex Math/Flash Cards) in order to build fluency in mathematical concepts. Working on this with your child is a great way to be involved.

Daily Schedule & Specials

8:15 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 – 10:30	Reading and Social Studies (Gies)
10:30 – 11:30	Writing (Gies)
11:30 – 12:15	Lunch/Recess
12:15 – 1:15	Math and Science (Flett)
2:15 - 3:15	Specials

Specials

Monday: STEAM

Tuesday: Tech

Wednesday: Music

Thursday: World Language

Friday: PE

Student success is directly connected with consistence attendance at school. It is also important that your child arrives on time.

Schoolwide Goal

Attendance

In addition, all children need to be in school every day. It's the only way we can be assured that they are receiving the instruction they need. Students may begin to line up at 8:10. **The entry bell will ring at 8:15.** Students will be considered tardy after 8:25. Please do not drop your students off too early, as there is not supervision. Students will be **dismissed promptly at 3:15 by their specials teachers.** All children are expected to be in school every day with the exception of the following excuses: student illness, family emergency, death in the immediate family, or a religious holiday. We expect all parents to plan family trips only during designated school vacations. If a child must be absent, please contact me through the ClassDojo app or call the school office the morning of the absence (773.534.4185). When the child returns from an absence, the parent/guardian must write a note explaining the absence and date it. **If absence is known ahead of time please contact me before that day!**

I hope that we can work together this year to meet all of the needs of your son or daughter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. Additionally, if there is there a family situation or special circumstance that you feel I should know about, I encourage you to contact me. I realize that it may be difficult to come to the school because of job responsibilities, so please sign up to communicate with me through the ClassDojo app, write a note, call, e-mail, or make an appointment to meet me at a time that is convenient for you before or after school. If you come to the school to meet with me, **please report to the main office first.** People cannot be in the halls without checking in first, for obvious for safety reasons.

I look forward to a great school year!

Best Regards,

Ms. Gies
3rd & 4th Language Arts Teacher
Room A302